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## 5(9): A Guide to Find Building Codes, Regulations and Standards in 15 following countries:

[[Australia](#)] [[Canada](#)] [[Denmark](#)] [[EU/European Union](#)] [[Finland](#)] [[France](#)] [[Germany](#)] [[Iceland](#)] [[Japan](#)] [[New Zealand](#)] [[Norway](#)] [[Russia](#)] [[Sweden](#)] [[United Kingdom](#)] [[USA](#)]

*The latest version of this list can be found at  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

### General Information

Building codes are an essential part of the construction industry; they define how to construct safe, durable and reliable structures. In this text: [Building Codes - How do they help you?](#) you can read the history and background by Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI). More facts about Building Codes are available from a real comprehensive web site, called [Code Check](#).

### Some international organizations to contact for further information:

#### [CIB - International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction](#)

CIB is a worldwide network of 5000 building and construction experts from about 500 member organisations active in the research community, in industry or in education, including almost all major national building research institutes in the world. General email address to the CIB secretariat: [secretariat@cibworld.nl](mailto:secretariat@cibworld.nl).

#### [RILEM - The International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures](#)

RILEM provides an international network of communication throughout 70 countries, to bring together specialists from research and industry to promote progress in the design, testing, manufacture and use of building materials. E-mail: [pascale.callec@rilem.ens-cachan.fr](mailto:pascale.callec@rilem.ens-cachan.fr)

Regarding standards, you will reach all countries through: [ISO - International Standards Organization](#) and through [WSSN - World Standards Services Network](#), which is a network of publicly accessible World Wide Web servers of standards organizations around the world.

[UICB - the International Union of Building Centres](#) is a perfect startingpoint in finding the relevant place for further advice.

Search for further organizations via : [EEVL](#) - [ICARIS](#) - [ICENET](#) - [YAHOO](#)



[\*\*Further Reading and Tips!\*\*](#)

*Not to forget: There is a very valuable search engine called FindLaw, which provides information focused on legal issues specifically,: <http://www.findlaw.com/> . Another just as useful site is <http://www.lawcrawler.com/> Especially this database is worth a try : "[LawCrawler International](#)" - search legal information within individual country domains." - But be sure to read the HELP for best results!*

### **Building codes, regulations and standards in U.S.A.**

*The latest version of this list can be found at  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

There is currently no single national building code in the U.S. Many states have statewide codes; other states have delegated the authority to develop codes to local governments. The majority of statewide or local codes are based on one of three model codes:

1. National Building Code -  
[BOCA - The Building Officials and Code Administrators International](#)
2. The Uniform Building Code -  
[ICBO - The International Conference of Building Officials](#)
3. Standard Building Codes -  
[SBCCI - The Southern Building Code Congress International](#)

[ICC - The International Code Council](#) (formerly CABO) is a not-for-profit association of the three model code organizations headquartered in the United States. These are the three membership organizations of building officials in the United States that are responsible for the enforcement of building codes in their jurisdictions.

Check out the code used in a specific state or location through a [Code Map](#). You can also join a [Chat Room](#) and get more information from the organizations etc.

For further advice; there is a comprehensive web site called "[The World of Building Codes](#)" where you also can join the [Building Code Discussions Group Message Board](#) and for instance, order recommended books from the [Building Code Bookstore](#). Another portal site of interest is this one: [www.constructionsweblinks.com](http://www.constructionsweblinks.com) . For instance you'll find an annotated list of building codes....

Other important national authorities or organizations:

[NCSBCS - The National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards](#), Inc. NCSBCS publishes [several Codes and standards](#), for instance Directory of Building Codes and Regulations and Intro to the Building Codes and other publications from their online bookshop.

[NIBS - The National Institute of Building Sciences](#) is an advisory organization whose primary function is to foster improvements in the building regulatory environment.

Another valuable resource is a [huge compilation of links and discussion forums etc.](#) provided by [Yosemite Chapter of the ICBO/ICC](#) . For instance you can find an easy-to-use list of the organisations dealing with concrete, energy, masonry, roofing, timber, windows etc. etc.

Fire codes are available at [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#)

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) information is available at <http://www.access-board.gov/> .

## About Building Standards

The technical base of all three model codes is the national voluntary standards they incorporate. These standards are developed by trade associations, engineering societies, testing laboratories, building code organisations, government agencies, manufacturers and national standards organizations.

### Some of the most important standard organizations:

- [ANSI - American National Standards Institute](#)
- [ASTM - American Society of Testing Materials](#)
- [NIST - The National Institute of Standards and Technology](#)

A comprehensive list of other model code organizations, standard organizations, related organizations, federal agencies, state and local sites, testing labs and inspection agencies at URL:<http://www.sbcc.org/links.htm> .

Furthermore, explore even more through the [Eng-Tips](#) Forum: Then choose [Codes & Standards](#) ...

## Building codes, regulations and standards in Canada

*The latest version of this list can be found at  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

In Canada, the responsibility for building regulations (building codes and standards) rests with the provinces and territories. In order to address issues of national interest related to building regulations,

it is necessary to have communication between those who develop codes in Canada, those who are responsible for building regulations and those who enforce them. This communication is through [PTCBS - the Provincial/Territorial Committee on Building Standards.](#)

[The Institution for Research in Construction](#) at the National Research Council ([NRC](#)) publishes a number of national model code documents: for instance: [The National Building Code of Canada \(NBC\)](#) which provides minimum requirements for health, life safety and structural sufficiency in new buildings. The NBC complements the [National Fire Code of Canada \(NFC\)](#), and both must be considered when you are constructing, renovating or maintaining buildings.

[Canadian Codes Centre \(CCC\)](#) is a department within NRC where you can find [more information as following](#): "How National Codes Are Developed and Updated, Historical Background, Standing Committees, Scope of Building and Fire Codes, Research Input to the Codes, Public Review, Standards, Evaluation, Summary".

## Canadian Standards

### [Standards Council of Canada \(SCC\)](#)

provides a searchable database containing titles and abstracts of Canadian standards as well as titles of foreign and international standards.

### [CSA International \(former: Canadian Standards Association\)](#)

On behalf of the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), CSA International represents Canada on various ISO Committees.

For further advice, check [Bricsnet](#) (former :AEC Info) For instance, there is a special forum dedicated to the construction law area, in which you can post your question and find much more of interest.

## Building codes, regulations and standards in Australia

*The latest version of this list can be found at*

<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.

Until the late 1970s Australia did not have a national building code. First in 1988 the Building Code of Australia (BCA) was published, followed in 1990 by an amended edition. Unlike the National Building Code of Canada, it is an applicationl code and not a model code. State variations are included to accommodate regional needs.

[The Australian Building Codes Board \(ABCB\)](#) is a joint initiative of all levels of government in Australia. It is responsible for developing and managing a uniform, national approach to building codes and building standards. The ABCB is responsible for developing and managing a nationally uniform approach to technical building requirements, currently embodied in the Building Code of Australia (BCA); developing a simpler and more efficient building regulatory system; and enabling the building industry to adopt new and innovative construction technology and practices.

## Australian standards

*The latest version of this list can be found at*

<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.

[Standards Australia](#). From their [FAQ, Frequently Asked Questions](#) you can find all relevant information about the Australian standards, and also find links to other related organizations.

For futher information: Major important organizations in the work of regulations are: [CSIRO - The Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation](#) and [AIB - The Australian Institute of Building](#)

## Building codes, regulations and standards in New Zealand

*The latest version of this list can be found at*

<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.

[BIA - The Building Industry Authority](#) is the organisation responsible for the building law in New Zealand. Here you will find information about building controls in general and about BIA activities and services. These functions are funded by a levy on building consents: To administer and review the New Zealand Building Code. To produce Approved Documents that specify detailed methods of complying with the New Zealand Building Code. To provide information and advice on building controls to all sectors of the building industry and public.

[BRANZ - The Building Research Association of New Zealand](#), is owned and governed by the New

Zealand building and construction industry. BRANZ expertise also plays a key role in the provision of information for the development of New Zealand's building controls (Codes and Standards). BRANZ also helps in presenting the New Zealand industry's perspective in the development of harmonised Standards between Australia and New Zealand. Work includes researching performance criteria, developing design, testing and evaluation methods and publishing construction solutions.

[Standards New Zealand](#) : serving industry and the community with reliable, economical, respected and internationally compatible solutions to technical problems.

## ● Building codes, regulations and standards in Japan

*The latest version of this list can be found at*  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.

### [BCJ - The Building Center of Japan](#)

"was established in 1965 under the auspices of the Ministry of Construction in order to carry out various research projects in the building construction field, evaluate newly developed technologies and provide this information to the public. Since its establishment, the BCJ has taken an active role in promoting and technically evaluating numerous technological advances pertaining to construction methods and materials, with the development of super-high-rise buildings and dome structures of membrane construction as just a few examples." [BCJ Publications in English](#)

For further advice, contact : [The Building Research Institute \(BRI\), Ministry of Construction](#)

## EU Building codes, regulations and standards in European Union (EU)

*The latest version of this list can be found at*  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.

[CEN - European Committee for Standardization](#) works in conjunction with other organisations, in particular, it has an agreement for technical cooperation (the Vienna Agreement) with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The CEN prepares common European design rules, Eurocodes (EC), following order vouchers (mandates) from European Community. In due course, these rules will replace the corresponding national rules. CEN assumes that every member country issues a national Application Document (NAD), which will contain: - national values of the boxed numbers which every nation may choose, - references to standards, - possible changes, additions and alternatives, - comments and explanations.

At this page: [CREATE - Construction Resources at Europa](#), you can read information about: The Construction Products Directive (CPD), Standing Committee, Specifications, Industrial Policy etc. and about the earlier mentioned [Eurocodes \(EC\)](#).

From: [Europa, the European Union's server](#), you can reach the most of the information you need about the Building Regulations of the [15 member countries](#) for contacting [their organizations in the construction area](#).

Via the web site of [ENBRI - European Network of Building Research Institute](#) - you can find further links.

Searchable databases with information about current research in Europe - [European Current Research Information Systems \(EUCRIS\)](#). There are also links to databases in countries outside Europe.

## UK Building codes, regulations and standards in United Kingdom

*The latest version of this list can be found at*  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.

[Building Regulations Division](#) (BR) is part of the Construction Directorate in the [Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions](#) (DETR). BR is responsible for the development and application of Government policy on Building Regulations and Building Control in England and Wales. It also has responsibility for the Construction Products Directive (CPD), Support for Standards and Housing Warranties.

The Building Regulations 1991 are set in broad functional terms. There are a series of Approved Documents that provide practical guidance on meeting the requirements of the regulations. There is no obligation to adopt any particular solution contained in an approved document if you prefer to meet the requirement in some other way. It is for

the designer to satisfy himself and then the Building Control Body that the regulations have been complied with.

Approved Document B gives guidance on the Fire Safety aspects of the regulations. A new edition of this document has now been published and will come into force in July 2000. An electronic version of the document is available for viewing and download from the DETR website. [www.detr.gov.uk](http://www.detr.gov.uk)

*About Scotland specifically, read this page: [Building Control - Your questions answered](#)*

The [Building Act and its Regulations](#) can be purchased from [HMSO](#), together with the Approved Documents. Local libraries may also have copies available.

[HMSO \(Her Majesty's Stationery Office\)](#) has responsibility for printing Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments. With effect from the first printed Statutory Instrument of 1997, all new Statutory Instruments are also available in full text form on this site.

[The Institute of Building Control](#) has completed a review of Building Regulations and Technical Provisions in Europe. This comprehensive study provides the most up-to-date information on building control, regulatory systems and technical requirements throughout Europe.

[British Standards Institution \(BSI\)](#) provide a special web page titled: "Information For Schools and Colleges" in where you can get all information about standards related questions.

The [Building Law Information Subscriber Service \(BLISS\)](#) is a comprehensive service for the construction industry. The [BLISS construction industry database](#) is an on-line, searchable information resource which has been updated daily since 1986. It contains abstracts from judgments, articles, journals (over 100 journals covered), contracts and books.

For further advice, visit the website of: [Society of Construction Law](#).

## For Further Advice and Information!

Visit this excellent service called: "Welcome to Building Regulations Training Home Page by Robert Hunter-Jones MSc CEng MICE MIStructE FIBC", at this URL: <http://www.hunter-jones.freeserve.co.uk/start.htm>. "The main purpose of this site is to help trainee Building Control Surveyors in the Building Regulations of England and Wales." For instance, you will get the [Building Regulations explained](#).

You can also post a message to Building Reg's Discussion Page, maintained by " UKBRP (UK Construction Industry Internet Directory).

An important organization dealing with building regulations in U.K. for further information: [BRE - Building Research Establishment](#)

## Building codes, regulations and standards in Germany (mostly in German only)

*The latest version of this list can be found at <http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

German federal state building regulations "[Landesbauordnungen](#)" (available in full text). Via this URL: <http://www.baunet.de/gesetze/index.html>, you can, for instance, reach following information:

"Building law and regulations (In German: "Gesetze und Verordnungen") with the emphasis building. Federal state building regulations (in the full text), overview of the relevant DIN standards, euro-codes and VDI recommendations for the planner and architect. DIN 1053 the new DIN for the calculation and execution of brick-work commentaries in detail from the specialists of the Poroton of federation."

[Die Verdingungsordnung für Bauleistungen - VOB](#) (The contracting regulations for building works and supplies)

VOB Teil A - DIN 1960 - Allgemeine Bestimmungen für die Vergabe von Bauleistungen

VOB Teil B - DIN 1961 - Allgemeine Vertragsbedingungen für die Ausführung von Bauleistungen (Part B in full text, in German only)

VOB Teil C - DIN 18299 ff. - Allgemeine Technische Vertragsbedingungen für Bauleistungen

For Further advice!

[IRB, The Fraunhofer Information Center for Regional Planning and Building Construction](#) is Germany's central establishment for the dissemination of expert knowledge on building construction and planning. The Institute cooperates with numerous national and international bodies, and maintains the most comprehensive bibliographic databases worldwide on building. The IRB publishes thematic bibliographies, specialist books and specialist book series on all aspects of building construction, and distributes research reports and the IRB's literature and fulltext databases.

For further building codes and laws you can visit the web site of [REFACT@Deutschland](#). There you'll find an extensive collection of the building codes of the individual Lands of the Federal Republic in the full text

Through [Deutsches Bauarchiv](#), you'll probably reach most Building Laws and Codes in Germany. They also provide an ON-LINE FORUM BUILDING for further questions.

German standards: [DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e.V.](#) Order through: [Beuth Verlag GmbH, Berlin](#).

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## Building codes, regulations and standards in France (mostly in French only)

*The latest version of this list can be found at <http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

The most important organizations dealing with building regulations to contact for information are:

[CSTB](#), Centre Scientifique et Technique du Batiment publishes the [DTU, Documents Techniques Unifiés](#).

[AFNOR](#), Association française de normalisation publishes the Normes Francaises, NF.

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## Building codes, regulations and standards in the Nordic Countries

*The latest version of this list can be found at <http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

[NORDTEST](#) is the joint Nordic organisation in the field of technical testing, to promote viable industrial development and the international competitiveness of Nordic industry by furthering relevant and cost effective testing and measurement activity in the Nordic countries and by advancing Nordic interests in an international context, particularly within European testing. All orginal Nordtest methods are printed in English. These methods can be ordered from the Nordtest Secretariat free of charge...

[NKB - Nordisk komité for byggebestemmelser \(Nordic Committée on Building Regulations\)](#)

The organization was cancelled in 1996, but there are still some corporation ongoing. View the list of [published reports](#). (The web site is in Norwegian only, but [some reports are available in English](#).)

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## Building codes, regulations and standards in Denmark

*The latest version of this list can be found at <http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

[SBI - The Danish Building Research Institute](#) is attached to the [Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs](#) (By- og Boligministeriet). SBI works for Danish building and the built environment together with all the parties of the building sector, from legislators to users. SBI contributes to improved quality, productivity and competitiveness in the building sector by following, promoting and carrying out technical and functional research and development. SBI contributes to the background for updating building, housing and planning legislation as well as building regulations, codes and standards. SBI communicates new legislation and research results through guidelines and design guides for practical use. View a great number of [useful links](#) for further searches.

The [Danish National Research Database](#) (DANDOK) presents an overall picture of research in progress and published Danish research. The DANDOK Database is based on information delivered from universities, institutions of higher education, Government research institutes, research councils and other public institutions carrying out research.

A newly discovered resource is this very excellent service by Rockwool company called "[BygBib](#)", [providing several building regulations in fulltext](#), as BR 95, AB 92 for example, and links you'll need to contact firms and organisations. Information only in Danish, but use the e-mail contact for further information.

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## Building codes, regulations and standards in Finland

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<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

**The Building Information Institute** (Rakennustietosäätiö) is Finland's leading information service for the building and construction sector. Its mission is to foster and promote good planning and construction practices as well as sound property management procedures.

For Further Information: [VTT, the Technical Research Centre of Finland](#).

Finnish Standards: [The Finnish Standards Association SFS](#)

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## **Building codes, regulations and standards in Iceland**

*The latest version of this list can be found at  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

**BRI, The Icelandic Building Research Institute** is a Government agency for testing and research for the building industry in Iceland.

[Planning Agency](#) provides online these documents in full text:

Translation from the Icelandic Planning and Building Act No. 73/1997 and no.135/1997

Translation from the Icelandic law and regulations on Environmental Impact Assessment No. 63/1993

Icelandic standards: [Icelandic Council for Standardization - STRÍ](#)

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## **Building codes, regulations and standards in Sweden (mostly in Swedish only)**

*The latest version of this list can be found at  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

**Boverket, Swedish Board of Housing, Building and Planning:** Building Division

is responsible for public requirements on buildings. These primarily concern health, safety, accessibility and energy management. The division also monitors developments in the construction field, coordinates Swedish building regulations with the EU and encourages appropriate construction and maintenance work.

A brief English review is available, containing short presentation of Boverket, the Swedish Board of Housing, Building and Planning, and an overview of the latest developments in Sweden in the field of housing and planning and a list of foreign language publications, among the Swedish Building Regulations, available in English.

**BST - Byggstandardiseringen** is the Swedish Building Standards Institution. (in Swedish only)

Other important organizations to contact about building regulations:

**Svensk Byggtjänst (The Swedish Building Centre)**

supplies information and knowledge to builders, managers and users. They provide a searchable fee-based database "Bygginfobas" including the current building regulations and standards. (In Swedish only).

**Byggdok (Swedish Institute of Building Documentation)**

provides fee-based question-answer service and online databases: Fastighet - Bygg - Miljö, containing the databases: "Real estate, Building, Environment, Byggfo and Regler". In the last mentioned Regler, you can find references to current valid Swedish laws, regulations standards and other official rules and model texts within the sectors of building, planning, environmental protection and energy.

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## **Building codes, regulations and standards in Norway**

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<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

**National Office of Building Technology and Administration, Norway**

The National Office of Building Technology and Administration serves as a link between the Ministry of Local Government, the building industry and the public. The office provides the authorities with better insight into matters affecting the building industry and encourages cooperation between the industry and the public sector.

The office is responsible for administering and interpreting national building regulations, and has the authority to administer a centralized system of Approval of designers, constructors or controllers in the

building industry. The office is also responsible for providing guidance and information concerning national building regulations. Furthermore, the office conducts studies to provide a sound basis for revision or simplification of the regulations.

A newly-added page specifically dedicated to [Norwegian Building Codes](#) in English is provided.

[Norges Byggstandardiseringsråd \(NBR\)](#) is the Norwegian Building Standards Institution. (in Norwegian only).

## ■ Building codes, regulations and standards in Russia

*The latest version of this list can be found at  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

### [Construction Codes & Standards of the Russian Federation](#)

Composed of over 200 codes and nearly 3,000 regulatory and instructional documents, SNIP is a uniform system of [national construction codes and regulations](#) of the Russian Federation. SNIP has been substantially reformed in 1994. Designed to protect public health, safety, and welfare, the Russian codes use a different organizational structure in comparison to the classifications used for codes of the United States and other developed countries." Read more [about the SNIPs](#) via the FAQ and you can besides [submit your own question](#).

## Further reading:

*The latest version of this list can be found at  
<http://www.tenlinks.com/engineering/civil/standards/index.htm>.*

In databases and library catalogs you can search publications using the keywords: "building regulations" (or codes, laws, standards...). Databases in the topic, like for instance: [BYGGDOK \(Swedish Institute of Building Documentation\)](#) and [ICONDA - The CIB International Construction Database](#) are the best sources to get valid information. Check with your library or university if you have access to them or to other valid databases. **For further advice, contact your local library or building centre (search via [UICB](#)) to find the current code or regulation.**

### **In 1989 this book was published: (unfortunately there are no newer editions):**

"*A Survey of Building Regulations Worldwide. Stockholm 1989, 3. ed, by Institutet för byggnadskundskap, BYGGDOK in compliance with the work within: CIB Working commission W57 - Building documentation, 260 pp.*" The edition contains entries from 44 countries, with addresses of the agencies, authorities and organizations who are dealing, providing or informing about the building regulations. Besides, covers short descriptions of the regulatory system in each country.

Finally, for those with interest in the field of earthquake engineering, there is a very valuable "Guide to International Seismic Codes" at this URL: <http://mceer.buffalo.edu/infoService/bibs/intcodes.asp> , provided by Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (MCEER)

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